

Title: **Diversifying Artisanal Fishing Fleets in the Galapagos Marine Reserve**

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Abstract: Fishing activities within the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR) are restricted to small-scale levels by national law. The fishing sector has relied on just two fisheries, sea cucumber and spiny lobster, and a strong Asian export market. Despite a series of input and output controls and a co-management scheme, stocks have been decimated. One proposed alternative is for commercial fishermen to enter the tourism sector by offering live fishing tours, sports fishing tours, and/or initiate a domestic seafood supply market. Aside from the potential need for retraining, fishermen's preferences for alternative effort diversification proposals are unknown. These preferences and the behavioral dynamics of geographically distinct harvest sectors are, however, critically important to the determination of an effective fisheries and conservation management in the GMR. An analysis of the past performance of the small-scale fleet (e.g., technical efficiencies from secondary data) will complement an assessment of preferences for fishing effort allocation decisions and for diversification of fishing effort across a range of extractive and non-extractive resource uses. The identification of acceptable extractive and non-extractive alternatives by fishermen will allow the comprehensive examination of the feasibility of proposed strategies. The data will be used to test whether the most efficient operators are more or less likely to diversify their portfolio of marine-based commercial activities. Preferences for diversification and, therefore, the likelihood of success will also be tested for sensitivity by gear type and region. Overall, this study will determine whether proposed alternatives to entice fishermen to voluntarily diversify will be successful.